

IV. Remarks

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 19, 21, 27 and 28 have been amended. No new claims have been added and no claims have been cancelled.

Declaration

The executed Declaration and Power of Attorney was filed on July 16, 2003 and contained the signatures of all the inventors including Mark E. Shields. A copy of the July 16, 2003 communication is attached for the convenience of the Examiner.

Specification

Paragraph 1 was deleted with the filing of the Preliminary Amendment filed on July 16, 2003 (see attached Preliminary Amendment).

Paragraphs 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 and 31 have been amended to address the objections kindly pointed out by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 7, 8, 10 and 13-28 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner stated that claims 7, 8, 10 and 13-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants assert that the above-identified claims have been rewritten per the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections. The specific claim amendments may be found in Part II of this paper.

Applicants assert that amended claims 7, 8, 10 and 13-28 are patentable and respectfully request allowance of same.

SUMMARY

Pending Claims 1-28 as amended are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

June 25, 2004

Date



Raymond J. Vivacqua (Reg. No. 45,369)
Attorney for Applicants

Attachment: Annotated Sheet(s) of Drawings